

STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF IOWA
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Annals of Iowa

Volume 6 | Number 3 (1903)

pps. 236-236

Charles Ashton

ISSN 0003-4827

Material in the public domain. No restrictions on use.



This work has been identified with a [Creative Commons Public Domain Mark 1.0](https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/).

Recommended Citation

"Charles Ashton." *The Annals of Iowa* 6 (1903), 236-236.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.2951>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](https://researchonline.iowa.edu/)

Seventh Iowa Cavalry, remaining with that regiment until after the war closed. He was not mustered out of the service until May 17, 1866, his discharge dating from Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. He then settled at Clinton, where he practiced his profession until 1879, when he removed to Charles City, which for many years was his home, though he spent a number of years at Osage, Mitchell county, serving in both places as a member of the board of United States pension examiners. He was also a trustee of the Iowa State Agricultural College for six years. Dr. Yeomans was a prominent member of the Iowa Department of the G. A. R., and also of the Pioneer Law Makers' Association of Iowa. He was an excellent Christian gentleman, who possessed an admirable faculty of making friends. As has been seen, he had resided in many localities in Iowa, in all of which he is remembered with great kindness. He was an eloquent speaker, and a clear and able writer. No man received a heartier welcome at the biennial reunions of the Pioneer Law Makers' Association. The Historical Department possesses a tasteful memorial of Dr. Yeomans. A few years before his death he deposited with the curator his commission as "Second Lieutenant, Company —, in the 3d Brigade of the 1st Division of Militia of the Territory of Iowa, with rank from July 24, 1840. "The company letter is covered by a blot and indistinguishable. This is signed by "Robert Lucas, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Militia of said Territory." It bears this attestation: "By the Governor's command, Ver Planck Van Antwerp, Adjutant-General." It is accompanied by a signed photograph of the handsome old doctor and a letter in which he briefly sketches the principal events in his long and busy life.

CHARLES ASHTON was born in Heighington, Lincolnshire, England, June 2, 1823; he died at Guthrie Center, Iowa, August 26, 1903. He came to America with his parents in his tenth year, the family settling in Richland county, Ohio. He had but limited opportunities for acquiring an education and to a great extent educated himself. In 1847 he was licensed as an exhorter in the Methodist church, and shortly after became a local preacher. In 1870 he was transferred from the Ohio conference to that of Des Moines, Iowa. He was first stationed at Guthrie Center, afterward having pastorates in Harlan, Dexter, Carlisle, and Guthrie Center. In 1861 he was kicked by a vicious horse, from the effects of which he never recovered. This accident kept him out of the Union Army in the civil war. About the year 1882 he became the editor and proprietor of *The Guthrian*, a republican journal which had been established in the early seventies. In this new field of enterprise "Father" Ashton, as he was now familiarly called, became well and widely known. He was a keen, incisive, vigorous, and always courageous writer. A "free-soiler" in his early manhood, he naturally voted for John C. Fremont for President in 1856, and upon the organization of the republican party became one of its active members. His county supported him for senator in 1895, in a three-cornered fight between Dallas, Guthrie and Audubon counties, but the choice fell to an opponent. "Father" Ashton was public spirited and enterprising to a degree equalled by few men of the region in which he lived. When he settled at Guthrie Center in 1878, he saw at once how necessary it was to have a railroad connection with the outside world. He was instrumental in projecting a road to Menlo, a town on the Rock Island line, and a company was organized of which he became the active, energetic and successful president. The road was built and is now a part of the Rock Island system. He was also one of the Iowa Commissioners to the great Columbian Exposition at Chicago, of which he was one of the most useful working members. He compiled the "Hand Book of Iowa," of which 25,000 copies were published, and was chairman of the committee on history, archaeology and statistics. His days were full of Christian work and genuine usefulness.

Copyright of *Annals of Iowa* is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.